

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2004

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 19, 2004, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A, Detroit, MI 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton **(ABS)**
Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Megan P. Norris

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Walter Shoulders
DC Ronald Haddad
DC Gary Christian
Cmdr. Willie Burden
Cmdr. Ralph Godbee
Cmdr. Vivian Talbert
Insp. Walter Martin
Insp. Jamie Fields
Insp. Gail Barnes
Sgt. Slappey
Sgt. Debbie Jackson
Sgt. Ron Arambula
Atty. Nancy Ninowski

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator

Ainsley Cromwell, Supervising Investigator
Damon Nunn, Police Commission Investigator
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Bogden
Chris Bogden
Mike Payne
Sandra Hines
Ms. Walters
June Lee
Herman Vallery
Donald Stolberg
Scott Brooks
Tawana Morris

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams
Kellie Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Blackwell called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:12 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Thursday, February 12, 2004**

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, February 12, 2004.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Comm. Blackwell asked for a moment of silence for the two fallen police officers, (Matthew Bowens and Jennifer Fettig) killed in the line of duty.

Comm. Norris expressed her deepest sympathy to the 4th Precinct. She stated that this precinct has had a very tough year before this incident. She stated that the Board of Police Commissioners would make sure that they have all of the support that they need and the resources to get the job done.

Comm. Ramirez stated that the candlelight vigil showed a overwhelming show of support for the 4th Precinct and that we will not forget and that we appreciate what they do for the community.

Comm. Holley expressed his sympathy to the 4th Precinct and to the families of the fallen officers. He stated how painful it is to the entire community and as a Minister; it makes him want to do everything that he can to try and make a difference in the officers' names in memory of them and other officers who have fallen in the line of duty. This is the first time that he remembers of the Department having a double funeral for two officers at the same time. It has to be tough for the families in particular, and the children. It affects so many people; we have to do better, not just in words, but also in deeds.

DC Ronald Haddad stated that he responded to the hospital when the officers were shot. He met the families at hospital and would not wish any parents or any loved one to have to face what those families felt and coming into that hospital to be walked into respective rooms. We pray jointly for their peace and it makes it more hurtful given the fact that the two officers killed in such a manner put their lives on the line and dedicated their selves to making us all safe.

Comm. Holley stated that our police officers have done an outstanding job in terms of their attitude under these difficult times.

Comm. Blackwell stated about the soldiers in Iraq and taking orders, when you think about it, in the city, there is a war going on and these officers make the call everyday to do their duty. When you hear about a person dying in the line of duty; think about the direct and indirect pain caused by this accident. We can't bring these individuals back, but it will make us appreciate even more what men and women do everyday for us in this city. I think as Police Commissioners, we have a very important role in making sure that officers are safe, well trained, and put in the best possible positions so something like this never happens again. We have a lot of work to do and Comm. Holley stated, there is a lot of healing to be done. Certainly, everyone in this

community seems to be pulling together on this issue and we really appreciate that.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

Executive Director Goss stated on Thursday, February 26, 2004, the Police Department will have a presentation on **Directive 202.1 (Arrests and Confinement of Material Witnesses)**, and **Training Directive 04-01 (Arrests and Confinement of Material Witnesses)**.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Weekly Count of Complaints:	27	177
Weekly Count of Allegations:	57	342
Arrest	2	11
Demeanor	17	122
Entry	7	9
Force	5	26
Harassment	3	14
Procedure	11	82
Property	1	11
Search	0	4
Service	11	63

Pending Cases

As of February 18, 2004, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **842 pending cases**, which include **167 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **43 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **125 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **94 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **143 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, **204 cases** with an age of 7-9 months, and **49 cases** with an age of 10-12 months, and **17 cases** with an age of 13-15 months.

2003

During the past week:	20	Year to Date:	140
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Comm. Holley stated how the Executive Director talks about how many complaints year to date and statistics, do we ever hear in terms of what has been done about the complaints?

Comm. Blackwell stated that weekly, we generally have a number on them and additional statistics on how many cases are opened and how many cases have been successfully closed.

5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of February 11–17, 2004:

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GANG DIVISION

Narcotics Enforcement and Conspiracy Sections – conducted four enforcement actions in the 12900 block of Grover, 9600 block of Temple, 19100 block of Carman and 20200 block of Alcoy, in the City of Detroit. These enforcement actions resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

5 felony arrests

6 misdemeanor arrests

54.1 grams of cocaine, 23.4 grams of heroin, 3,205.3 grams of marijuana – street value \$76,581.00

\$5,746.00 U.S. currency

Vice Section – conducted one enforcement action in the 13600 block of E. 7 Mile Rd. The enforcement action resulted in the following arrests:

2 arrests – “Engage in an Illegal Occupation”

19 arrests – “Loitering in a Place of Illegal Occupation”

8 vehicles

1 long gun

1 handgun

\$101.00 U.S. currency

FOURTH PRECINCT

On February 16, 2004, on-duty Police Officers Matthew Bowens and Jennifer Fettig, assigned to the Fourth Precinct, were conducting a traffic stop in

the area of Gilbert and Michigan Avenue. An altercation occurred which resulted in the unfortunate death of both officers. Officer Bowens was a three-year veteran; Officer Fettig was a two-year veteran. Both officers will be remembered and greatly missed by the Detroit Police Department.

SEVENTH PRECINCT

On February 12, 2004, officers of the Seventh Precinct received a police run to the 8600 block of Traverse on "Woman being held at gunpoint against her will." Upon arriving at the location, they were refused entry by the subject holding the female complainant against her will. The incident was declared to be a possible barricaded gunman situation. A tow truck was ordered to remove the security bars from the front door. The officers forced entry into the location and arrested four males for "Felony Assault/Kidnapping." The complainant suffered minor injuries from the assault.

EIGHTH PRECINCT

On February 13, 2004, officers of the Eighth Precinct working in conjunction with the Fugitive Apprehension Service Team, conducted surveillance in the area of Evergreen and Fenkell for subjects wanted for firearms related offenses. As a result of their investigation, three subjects were arrested on felony warrants.

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

6. DISCIPLINARY APPEALS – APPEALS SUBCOMMITTEE

Comm. Norris chaired the Disciplinary Appeals Subcommittee:

In the Matter of Disciplinary Appeal, **Police Officer Chet Gardner, BPC 03-011D**, D.P.O.A. Attorney Scott Brooks represented the petitioner, Attorney Nancy Ninowski, City Law Department represented the Department. The Appeals Subcommittee took the matter under advisement.

In the Matter of Disciplinary Appeal, **Police Officer Laron York,**

BPC 03-019D, D.P.O.A. Attorney Donald Stolberg represented the petitioner, Attorney Nancy Ninowski, City Law Department represented the Department. The Appeals Subcommittee took the matter under advisement.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Blackwell stated that the services for the fallen officers are open to the public.

Comm. Norris stated that the services are scheduled for Friday, February 20, 2004, at 10.00 am, Greater Grace Temple, 23500 W. 7 Mile Rd near Telegraph Rd.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings commended the officers for remaining professional. She knows this is a very hard time and the police officers are extremely angry. In the memory of Officers Bowens and Fettig, I challenge them to remain professional and resolute in sticking to the oath that they have taken to serve this community and they have done that as champions. She thanked all of the officers and she knows it is a hard time. It is a hard time for the community and they have reached out and embraced this police department a lot of times the officers really don't feel as though the job that they do is appreciated; but I needed for them to know that there is a very small population that feels that way but the vast majority of citizens we serve, whether or not they say it, appreciate the officers and it is kind of like a loved one, you don't tell them I love you on a regular basis. As their Chief, I commend them.

Comm. Holley stated he wished to commend Chief Bully-Cummings on how she has handled this tragedy and how she has came up through the ranks and to see how the officers have so much respect for her. He stated that our prayers are with her and the DPD staff for their strength. On behalf of the Board, he wished to commend her up under these difficult times, how she has held up and how she has kept the troops in line to be professional. He expressed how proud we are that she is there in such a time as this.

Comm. Holley asked could we have a rule that all cell phones be turned off or left in the car, or put on vibrate?

Comm. Blackwell stated that we already have the rule.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sandra Hines read a news release statement expressing sympathy for the two (2) fallen officers (Matthew Bowens and Jennifer Fettig) killed in the line of duty. The Coalition expressed their concern regarding the public's overreaction to seeking the death penalty.

Carol Bogden expressed her concerns regarding the deaths of the two police officers. She asked that we show concern not only for the victims' families but also for the suspect's family. She also addressed issues concerning the federal indictments of officers in the 4th Precinct.

Comm. Norris stated that she did not in anyway mean to make any judgments about the officers that have been indicted. Her comment was to the officers that are still in the 4th Precinct, that regardless of whether the officers are indicted, turn out to be right or wrong, the good officers who have been charged with nothing, who are in that precinct, have had sixteen (16) of their colleagues taken away in a day and that was a very frustrating demoralizing experience for them. I will stand by that statement, and I don't in anyway mean to suggest that I am condoning the behavior of the officers who are indicted. What I said is that, the 4th Precinct, those officers who are serving there today, who have not been charged with anything wrong in anyway shape or form, have lost a whole bunch of colleagues this year, and it is very difficult to be in that precinct.

Carol Bodgen stated that it is difficult for her as a resident to go into a police station and make a report out and have an officer verbally jump me as soon as I walk into the door. Threaten me and throw furniture around in the lobby and her superior officer was sitting there and not saying anything. She stated she had to ask a detective to please walk her to the lobby so that she and her husband could walk out.

Tawana Morris, retired Detroit Police Officer, commended the sincerity and the professionalism of the officers handling the suspect, charged with fatally wounding the two (2) officers (Matthew Bowens and Jennifer Fettig)

Ms. Walters expressed her concern regarding the recent tragedies concerning the police officers and the feeling of anger expressed to other individuals in the community. We need to work together and have more respect for one another.

Chris Bogden expressed his concerns statements being made to the media concerning violence and it could incite rioting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 26, 2004, @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Room 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/fyh